

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gary Hecht on 25 March 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 11, line 49 (last line in the claim), the limitation "cylindrical housing.", has been changed to - -cylindrical housing, said floating body further including a ring-like arrangement of support fingers facing towards the support disk, the fingers being spaced apart in the peripheral direction and having radially inwardly facing surfaces for exerting a radial guiding effect upon a facing surface of the support disc.- -.

Claims 15 and 18-20 have been cancelled.

Claim 21, line 30, the limitation "abatement" has been changed to - - abutment - -.

Claim 21, line 35, the limitation "cylindrical housing.", has been changed to - - cylindrical housing, said floating body further including a ring-like arrangement of support fingers facing towards the support disk, the fingers being spaced apart in the peripheral direction and having radially inwardly facing surfaces for exerting a radial guiding effect upon a facing surface of the support disc.- -.

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The reason for the change is to overcome Benjey (5,950,655) in combination with Bergsma (4,753,262), as discussed in the interview summary of 12 March 2010, attached herein.

Reasons for Allowance

None of the prior art discloses or renders as obvious "said floating body further including a ring-like arrangement of support fingers facing towards the support disk, the fingers being spaced apart in the peripheral direction and having radially inwardly facing surfaces for exerting a radial guiding effect upon a facing surface of the support disc", in combination with the rest of the limitations of the independent claims.

In the Drawings:

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: In accordance with the requirements of Form PTO-948, included with the action of 23 June 2009, including proper cross-hatching per MPEP 37 CFR 1.84(n), see Drawing symbols chart and correction of line quality and numbers, further including the addition of the spring (32) into the drawing views. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

In the Specification:

Page 6, paragraph 0020, line 2, "spring,not illustrated," has been changed to

- - spring (32), - -.

This correction has been made to define the claimed matter of the spring in the specification and drawings.

Applicant's amendment to the drawings overcomes the previous objections regarding page 2 of the action dated 6/23/2009.

Applicant's amendment to the abstract overcomes the previous objection.

Applicant's amendment to claim 11 overcomes the previous claim objections.

Applicant's amendment to claim 11 overcomes the previous 35 USC claim rejections.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig Price whose telephone number is (571)272-2712. The examiner can normally be reached on 8AM - 4:30PM Mon-Fri, Increased flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on (571) 272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CP
/C. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 3753

22 March 2010

/John Rivell/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 37533